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Valentine's Day memories both touch and trouble the heart

♥ For some, Valentine's Day is about snuggling up next to their partner, eating over-priced chocolates and pretending they'll be able to keep flowers alive for more than a day, but for others, the ghost of Valentine's Day past haunts them at night, carrying memories of cringe-worthy middle school days and angsty romantic endeavors. Whether February 14 leaves you warm and fuzzy or just awkward, you're in good company. ♥

BY BRITTANY WELLS
Staff Writer



"So I was in middle school and I had a crush on this really cute boy, but I was never going to do anything about it. He was one of the popular kids, and he was going around to a bunch of girls and to me, too, and was like, 'Hey, do you want a kiss?' and then everybody freaked out, like, 'What? What did he say?' And then he would whip out a Hershey kiss and that was what he was giving as his valentines, and it made me blush a lot."

Maria Vassanelli
First-year undecided major

Read more
Valentine's Day
stories at xavier-newswire.com!



"So, in fourth grade, when it was still allowed to bring in treats for Valentine's Day, I brought in Snickers, and everything was going well until one of my best friends said he was home sick the next day because of his peanut allergy."

Joe Thomas
First-year sports marketing major



"My freshman year of high school I bought a boy a bear and chocolates, and when I got to school and took them he said, 'Thanks,' and then walked away with nothing to give to me. I thought we liked each other."

Elizabeth Garnes
First-year psychology major



"So, every year I've dated someone briefly, but it just so happened that I broke up with my girlfriend a month before Valentine's Day each year, basically because of all the pressure and I knew things weren't going to go far. So I just ended it before that romantic evening."

Robert Richards
Senior political science major



"One of my best memories of Valentine's Day is always waking up to a card from my mom and my dad. It was always just a very loving day in our house, and my parents just went above and beyond to make it a happy day... Every Valentine's day, even since coming to college, I've gotten a Valentine's Day card from my mom."

Cereys Edwards
Sophomore early childhood education major

In this issue...

Campus News, Page 2

Students will see free laundry and textbooks beginning in the Fall 2019 semester.



World News, Page 5

Get caught up on the controversies and chaos surrounding Virginia's state government.



Sports, Page 8

Sophomore Anna Kostarellis set a new school record in the 3,000-meter run.



A&E, Page 10

Not sure what to do on Valentine's Day? Start with this guide about how *not* to celebrate.



Laundry fee washes swipes away

Students to pay for laundry through a semesterly fee instead of by the load



Beginning in the fall, students will pay for their laundry through a housing fee each semester instead of using X-Cash to pay per load. The included laundry will not apply to off-campus residences like University Station.

BY JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

The phrase “free laundry” appeared on several of the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive plat-

forms last fall and inspired Dr. Jude Kiah, vice president of ConneX. Beginning in the fall, rather than paying with X-Cash in the laundry room, students will pay a housing fee each

semester to use washing machines and dryers. The included laundry will not apply to off-campus residences, such as University Station. According SGA Vice Pres-

ident Desmond Varner, campus laundry facilities will be renovated so that the university can surpass charges from Cincinnati Coin Laundry, campus’ current washing machine provider. “At one of our first meetings with Dr. Kiah, he said that he already got the free laundry done,” SGA Vice President Alfredo Mercedes said. Details are still being worked out by ConneX, Mercedes explained. For example, there are plans to put in checks and balances to avoid abuse by off-campus residents and prevent non-Xavier students from taking advantage of the new program. ConneX predicts that including laundry costs in housing fees will lead to the machines lasting longer since students won’t feel pressure to overload them to cut costs. However, some students

expressed doubt regarding how beneficial the program will actually be. “Whereas everyone needs textbooks, I know people who do laundry once every three weeks, as disgusting as that is, and I know people who do it like once a week and two loads,” junior Abby Morton said. “So I think the benefits for that might not be as beneficial for as many people.” From an environmental standpoint, front-loaded washing machines are more water efficient than traditional top-loaded laundry machines and generally take less time to wash clothing. Kiah added that he does not think that students will use washing machines excessively. “Students won’t increase their use of laundry just because they no longer have to directly pay for it,” Kiah said. “Nobody washes their clean clothes just because.”

Panel fuses personal history, questions of justice

BY KEVIN THOMAS
Managing Editor

Nearly every ethics class offered at Xavier asks the question, “What is justice?”, typically addressing it through studying Plato’s *Republic*. On Sunday in the Arrupe Overlook, that question became “What does justice require?” and philosophy professor Gabe Gottlieb, Center for Faith and Justice staffer Rev. Nelson Pierce, senior psychology major Ayarri Moore and sophomore Alecia Conway attempted to answer it. A crowd of about 40 students filed in and helped themselves to Dewey’s pizza at 6 p.m. as they awaited the beginning of the discussion.

The first question asked what justice required in this particular moment in history, and each of the panelists dug into the deep questions of justice with answers that came from their different personal histories. “I thought (the panel) was really good,” Moore said. “I thought we had great perspectives. I thought we were all pretty much on the same page, but we’ve all had different lives, so it was nice to hear (Gottlieb) and Nelson, who have been instrumental in my growth here.” Gottlieb agreed that the different perspectives were a positive aspect of the event. “I think that the various perspectives that the panelists had are useful for folks to see and hear, but I think also that the idea that justice requires a commitment,” Gottlieb said. “I think that was a common theme throughout, and living

that commitment and pushing forward, that’s just something that’s always good to think about and hear.” Personal history was a major point in the discussion, as each of the panelists described the point in their own lives when they began to ask questions relating to justice as well as the individuals who influenced the way that they view this question of justice. Another key takeaway, according to sophomore Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President Desmond Varner, was knowing what place each person has in justice-oriented work. “I think what Reverend Pierce and what Dr. Gottlieb said in terms of knowing your role and doing action and justice is really important,” Varner said. “...Not everyone is supposed to be on the forefront fighting people. There’s also people who are in institutions, teaching, there are people who are in policy, working there, so leveraging your position in order to actually make social justice active and change.” He added that attending the panel was especially beneficial because of his new role as SGA Vice President. “It actually really affected me personally because with the new role I have, a lot of it is focused on how can I make policy and procedures as well as real feasible change that can one, promote equity amongst all students in the student body and also make real significant change and do what is just and what is right for the student body,” Varner said.



Faculty and students participated in a panel discussion about justice and what it requires on Sunday in the Arrupe Overlook. The panelists described their personal histories and their place in justice-oriented work.

Feb. 4 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

Senators receive information on HUB developments, discuss proposed projects

- SGA Adviser Leah Busam Klenowski and Dean of College of Professional Sciences Dr. Paul Gore informed senators about developments for the Health United Building as part of the Report of the Administration. There is currently no opening date.
- Senators discussed proposals for forthcoming projects that are currently in development.
- Lori Lambert, the Senior Director for Students Affairs in the Office of Residence Life, will provide the Report of the Administration at next Monday’s meeting.

Textbook program to be extended in fall 2019

By JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

A pilot program that has covered the costs of textbooks for first-years in 2018 is being extended to include sophomores and the next crop of first-years in 2019.

The textbook program will continue to be paid for with money from a general fund, which includes money collected from tuition. According to Student Government Association Vice President Alfredo Mercedes, the recent five percent increase in tuition for the 2019-2020 academic year is in part the result of the extension of the textbook program. The five percent increase covers general inflation, will help subsidize residential laundry, among other things, and affects all students.

According to Dr. Jude Kiah,

Assistant vice president of ConneX, the program is intended to be universalized to all students eventually. Mercedes stated that Xavier wants to be at the forefront of other schools in preparing its students for success.

Sophomore Lawrence Sadoras sees the textbook program as a positive addition to campus. "I'm gonna be honest with you... I refuse to buy my textbooks because they're \$200, \$300, and that's way out of my budget. I don't want to ask my parents and stuff like that."

ConneX worried that students may not return provided textbooks or that they would not be able to get enough books for each student. Neither of these problems have materialized.

Kiah noted that ConneX

found through a survey that 30 percent of students on Xavier's campus had no books at all and 70 percent of students did not have all of their books for their classes.

"For the first time, a majority of Xavier students have all of their textbooks on the first day of classes," said Kiah. "We wanted to remove the possibility of not being able to afford books off of the table so that the textbooks can be a tool for success instead of an obstacle."

ConneX is currently waiting on GPA and other data from current first-year students to evaluate whether the textbook program may lead to success in the classroom.

Junior Abby Morton sees the value in providing textbooks. Besides the price tag, required books may not be



Newswire photo by Jeff Richardson

The university will provide textbooks to first-years and sophomores starting next fall. The textbook program is one reason tuition was raised.

used often enough in classes to justify the expense.

Morton was frustrated by the program's limit to first-years and sophomores given that it is funded by the tuition increase.

"Having it increase for everyone and not having us receiving the same benefits or the same kind of things that everyone else is going to have access to with that increase is frustrating

TAO expands services, fills counseling demand

By ALEX BUDZYNSKI
Staff Writer

This past fall, the McGrath Health and Wellness Center launched a new counseling program known as Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) as an option for students facing mental health challenges.

Currently, there are approximately 160 students participating in the online counseling services.

Available to any Xavier student, the program offers support in a variety of topics, including stress and anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse.

The program is specifically geared toward college-aged students and can either be

used as a self-guided tool or in collaboration with counseling sessions. Students can register online with their Xavier email address and do not need to contact McGrath or Psych Services to use TAO.

According to Dr. Timothy Barron, the Director of Counseling Services at McGrath, TAO is part of the "comprehensive approach to meeting the growing needs of wellness on campus."

Barron worked closely with departments on campus such as residence life, athletics, student affairs, the dean's office and others when arranging for the program to come to Xavier.

Barron said that TAO's on-

line setup allows student to access the service 24/7 and use it at their own pace. It may be more convenient for students who have busy schedules or students who are not comfortable with counselors.

Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Jennifer Droege explained that TAO is useful for reaching more students while also accommodating for the various mental health needs of students.

"Students have different needs and if there are ways for students to receive services in different ways, it allows us to serve students differently," Droege said.

Barron also agreed that on-

line counseling enables more students to be served, and will be beneficial in dealing with the anticipated increase in students in coming years.

Xavier has made other attempts this year to provide more mental health services to students as demand has increased. McGrath has contracted additional therapists to extend the available hours of counseling.

The program has shown positive results in relieving stress and anxiety. Students who have used the program claim it was helpful in alleviating symptoms.

Online counseling is not unique to Xavier, as a number of other universities around

the country are taking a similar approach to mental health.

TAO is not the final step toward enhanced mental health services on campus. McGrath plans on releasing a telehealth program in the next few years. A telehealth program would be direct online counseling, allowing students to receive personalized time with a therapist over video-chat, in conjunction with completing modules on TAO.

At the Community Discussion on health and wellbeing hosted by BDA, Dean of Students Jean Griffin also shared that the university will be looking to hire more mental health professionals in the future.

Students get answers on wellness



Newswire photo by Ryan Kambich

BDA delivered on their transparency focused platform by hosting their first Community Discussion on Monday. The panel of administrators, staff and health experts answered students' questions on safety and wellbeing.

By RYAN KAMBICH
Opinions and Editorials
Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted its first monthly Community Discussion on Monday, bringing together a panel of administrators to speak to the campus about student wellness and safety. SGA executives Blair McKee, Desmond Varner and Alfredo Mercedes were joined by Xavier Vice

President for Risk Management Jeff Coleman, XUPD Lieutenant Shawn Bryce, Dean of Students Jean Griffin, TriHealth Wellness Coordinator Kaity Rowe and Chief Student Affairs Officer Dr. Dave Johnson to take questions from students assembled on the ground floor of Gallagher Student Center.

The panel fielded questions on a number of topics related

to wellness and safety, including the expansion of mental health services in the forthcoming Health United Building (HUB), emergency alerts from XUPD and resources for sexual health on campus.

Notably, students in the crowd posed a number of questions about the nicotine free campus policy currently under consideration by the administration.

Griffin and Johnson affirmed that resources would be made available to help individuals on campus who currently smoke to quit before the proposed policy would go into effect on July 1.

Furthermore, Griffin and Coleman explained that they did not expect police resources to be diverted to enforcement of the policy and away from other needs throughout the campus community. "We see this as a supportive policy to help support members of the community make choices about their health," Griffin said.

The current SGA executives made commitment to transparency a major area of emphasis while they were on the campaign trail last fall. Community discussions such as Monday's were laid out in their campaign platform.

"We're not going to move the university forward, we're not going to move the student body forward if we can't be honest and open with each other," SGA Vice President Varner said following the

event. "Accountability is a two-way street. We can only go halfway, and if the administration isn't as accountable as we are as students, it's not fair."

Varner sees Community Discussions as a way for the current SGA Executives to fulfill their duties to students.

"We all recognize that there's this gap, especially in terms of knowledge, insight and input," Varner said. "The whole point of us being here is to bridge that gap, especially in terms of students receiving meaningful information about how they can navigate through these next couple years."

Varner seemed pleased with the first community discussion. "Students showed up, they weren't afraid to ask tough questions and administrators weren't afraid to be honest with us and be transparent. If we're really trying to improve Xavier, that's where we need to go."

SGA hopes to host community discussions each month this semester.

Virginia faces a controversy crisis

Three state offices face separate allegations of blackface and sexual assault

By MICHAEL RAUBER
Staff Writer

Some of the most prominent lawmakers in the Commonwealth of Virginia are being asked to step down after recent controversies.

The controversies began with HB 2491, which was introduced earlier this year by Kathy Tran, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. Tran was questioned about the bill by fellow delegate Todd Gilbert, a Republican.

Gilbert first asked how late in the third trimester a physician could perform an abortion, to which Tran responded, “Through the third trimester — the third trimester goes all the way up to 40 weeks.”

Gilbert then asked if a woman could request an abortion “where it’s obvious that (she’s) about to give birth.” Tran said that decision would be up to the physician and the woman but that it would be allowed under the bill.

The Virginia GOP shared a video of Tran’s presentation of the bill, including her dialogue with Gilbert. It generated criticism from state lawmakers and national figures like former U.N. Secretary Nikki Haley, who tweeted that the video made her “sick to her stomach.” Tran later de-



Photo courtesy of VCU Captial News Service on Flickr
Virginia Governor Ralph Northam is accused of wearing blackface in a photo from a page his Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook that bears his name. Northam has denied that incident but admitted to another one.

leted her Twitter account.

On Monday, a subcommittee voted 5-3 to table the bill.

Then, on Feb. 1, a photo emerged from Governor Ralph Northam’s page in the Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook depicting one student in a KKK uniform and another dressed in blackface. Northam was asked to resign.

In an interview with CBS’ Gayle King, Northam then re-

ferred to slaves as “indentured servants.” He also said he has no plans to step down.

Northam indicated that he did wear blackface during a medical school dance contest in which he pretended to be Michael Jackson. It is unclear if the pictures from his yearbook and the dance contest came from the same event.

Only hours later, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia Justin Fairfax was accused

of sexual assault. Fairfax has called for “due process” in both of the allegations against him.

According to CNN, the accusers, Dr. Vanessa Tyson and Meredith Watson, have expressed their desire to cooperate and testify in any impeachment proceedings.

While Northam has not resigned as governor, he has acknowledged that Fairfax should resign “if the allegations are true.”

Numerous politicians, including senators and Democratic presidential candidates, have called on Fairfax to resign.

Finally, last week, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, the third-highest ranking Democrat in the state, admitted he had worn blackface as a 19-year-old to a party in the 1980s.

While some legislators have called for the resignations of all three individuals, others expressed interest in letting the events play out. State Senator J. Chapman Petersen, a Northern Virginia Democrat, told the *New York Times*, “I feel like I’m living in an episode of a Nathaniel Hawthorne novel where people are rushing to judgment, and it feels like if I don’t proclaim judgment right away, it somehow reflects on me.”

Olivia Clark, a junior from Roanoke, Va., expressed disappointment in the situation.

“The current political environment in the country, especially in Virginia, is chaotic and unfair,” she said. “...Anyone could find dirt on someone and destroy someone’s top job as a government official that they’ve worked their entire life for. I would hate to be anyone running for an important office in this day in age.”

POLICE NOTES

Feb. 5, 12:47 a.m. — A non-student was re-cited on two outstanding traffic warrants in the Flynn Hall lobby.

Feb. 6, 7:20 a.m. — An employee working in the food court of Gallagher Student Center reported damage to the metal window grate at the All For Subs Deli. Xavier Police is investigating.

Feb. 6, 2:17 p.m. — A student reported damage to their vehicle in the Commons Apartments parking lot overnight. There are no suspects. Xavier Police is investigating.

Feb. 6, 9:49 p.m. — Xavier Police and Norwood Police investigated a report of an unknown disturbance and use of the assistance phones in the Norwood Plaza lot near the Family Dollar. Two juveniles reported a dispute involving other juveniles who fled the area before officers arrived. They

NOTE OF THE WEEK

Delivered right to your door, one way or another

Feb. 10, 2:06 p.m. — Xavier Police investigated a report of a vehicle driving on the residential mall and through the grass on the Xavier Yard. The driver, who works for DoorDash food delivery service, was cited for reckless operation and driving with a suspended license.

were cautioned and sent on their way.

Feb. 10, 3:45 p.m. — Xavier Police assisted a stranded motorist on Victory Parkway. The driver was found to be driving with a suspended license and possessed a small amount of marijuana. The driver was cited to Hamilton

County Court.

Feb. 10, 7:16 p.m. — Xavier Police assisted Norwood Police with a theft in progress at the Family Dollar in the Norwood Plaza. Xavier Police found two juvenile suspects on Dana Avenue who fled the area, leaving the stolen property behind. Norwood Police was notified.

Feb. 10, 10:25 p.m. — Xavier Police and Norwood Fire checked on an intoxicated student who activated an assistance phone in the C3 parking lot. The student was checked by medics and transported back to their room in the Commons Apartments. Residence Life was notified.

Xavier Police tips:
Don’t leave valuables unattended.
If you don’t feel safe, call the escort service at 513-745-2000

Week in Review

Poop stick, fruit power and ex-fish

- New Zealand marine biologists are on the hunt for the owner of a USB stick that was found in frozen seal feces. The scientists said they will happily return the stick to its rightful owner in exchange for some more poop samples (Feb. 6).
- Students in Kazakstan harnessed the powers of technology and fruit to create a banana piano. A player presses on one of the bananas, which are hooked up to a computer that generates unique sounds for each individual “key” (Feb. 8).
- Scooters, the preferred transportation method of many children, have another use: self-defense. A woman in Texas was able to fend off machete-wielding attackers by hitting one of the men with her child’s scooter and then using it to smash the window of their getaway car (Feb. 8).
- An Oregon wildlife center is offering a very special Valentine’s Day program. For the low price of a \$20 donation to the center, patrons can name a salmon after an ex and feed it to a pair of brown bears. Participants will also receive photos of the bears eating the fish (Feb. 11).



Photo courtesy of Facebook
For a \$20 donation, you can name a fish after your ex and feed it to some bears. You can also take home a photo of the fish being eaten.

Xavier reacts to 2019 SOTU address

Trump calls for end to Russia investigation, renews call for wall on the border



President Donald Trump gave his State of the Union Address on Tuesday, Feb. 5. Trump began with a call for bipartisanship and also discussed trade issues, border control and the Russia investigation. 2018 Georgia gubernatorial runner-up Stacey Abrams gave the Democratic Party's response.

BY JACK DUNN AND RYAN KAMBICH
Campus News Editor and Opinions & Editorials Editor

President Donald Trump gave his State of the Union Speech last Tuesday, after the government shutdown saw his invitation revoked by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. The address to the nation drew a mixed reaction from the Xavier community.

Some students did not feel the need to watch the State of the Union live as it was broadcasted.

"I already knew what he

was going to say, and I felt like it would've been a waste of my time when I know that (President Trump) likes getting TV ratings, and I didn't want to supply that rating," junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and history double major Miles Tiemeyer said.

Others who watched felt like it did not have substance. "I felt like it was fluff," junior special education major Cole Stautberg said. "The congressional response to it could have been stronger."

Besl Family Chair for Ethics, Religion and Society Dr. Myron Jackson took a differ-

ent approach to the address: "I was very happy with the celebration of the Anniversary of women's suffrage. I thought (it) was good to have that reference."

However, he felt differently on the issues brought up by the president, feeling that most issues proposed were from the last State of the Union Address.

"It's disappointing in that sense because...to continue to hear your leaders talk about the same policy issues year after year diminishes the value on them and your trust or confidence in their ability to

get these things done," Jackson said. "In that sense, it can be very deflating. And then, the performance is no longer seen as believable because of the gridlock."

The Democrats' response, given by runner-up in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election Stacey Abrams, drew a more positive reaction.

"One thing that I thought was really interesting is that she (Abrams) didn't actually watch his speech," Tiemeyer said.

Jackson found that this response drew some similarities between the Democratic and

Republican parties.

"I really liked Abrams' response and how the Democrats went with an outsider. But it speaks to their position where, like the Republicans, they're either seeking to reidentify themselves or to redefine themselves," he said.

Trump covered a wide range of topics in his State of the Union, beginning with a call for bipartisanship. He then discussed trade, border control and the Russia investigation.

"If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation," Trump said during the address. Trump renewed his call for a physical barrier on the southern border, saying that "in the past, most of the people in this room voted for a wall but the proper wall never got built. I'll get it built."

Congressional negotiators reached "an agreement in principle" on Monday night in hopes of avoiding another partial government shutdown that would go in effect at midnight on Feb. 15.

The tentative agreement includes \$1.3 billion in funding for a physical barrier along 55 miles of the southern border. Trump has not given any sign as to whether or not he would sign the bipartisan deal, saying, "I can't say I'm thrilled with Congress' border security deal."

Officer Brewer's funeral draws crowd of thousands

BY SIERRA ROSS
Staff Writer

On Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. authorities in Clermont County responded to a psychiatric call at Royal Oak Apartments. This is roughly a 30 minute drive from Xavier's Campus.

Originally, a 911 call was received from a man claiming someone was in his apartment who refused to leave. The caller also reported that the man was suicidal and armed. Initial responders were unable to make contact with the caller.

The suspect barricaded himself inside his apartment. After shots fired were reported, responding officers were prompted to enter the building. First responders attempted to negotiate with the (allegedly) suicidal suspect.

At around 10:37 p.m., two hours into the standoff, two officers were shot through a wall when they tried to enter the premises to assist the man. The incident lasted a total of 12 hours. The suspect was apprehended after he left the building because of a fire. The cause of the fire has yet to be announced.

According to Pierce Township Police, all shots were fired from the suspect. Officers did not return fire.

Deputy Bill Brewer, 42, was

fatally wounded. Lieutenant Nick DeRose was also shot, but he has since been released from the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

The suspect was identified as 23-year-old Wade Edward Winn. He is accused of luring police officers with suicidal threats and fatally shooting a sheriff's deputy and wounding another. Winn is currently facing charges of attempted aggravated murder and aggravated murder. His bail is set at \$10 million. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Brewer's death was the fifth officer casualty in Ohio this year. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine ordered that public flags be lowered at half-mast on Sunday in honor of the slain officer. The flags in front of the Cintas Center were lowered accordingly.

Brewer was a 20-year-veteran of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office. He was beloved by the community. He left behind his wife Jamie and their 5-year-old son Braxton.

Thousands of people gathered to pay respects to the fallen deputy last Friday. A 603 car procession carried Brewer's body to his final resting place in the Pierce Township Cemetery. Hundreds of people lined the streets from the

church to the cemetery thanking the deputy for his service to the community. People held signs and flags to support Brewer.

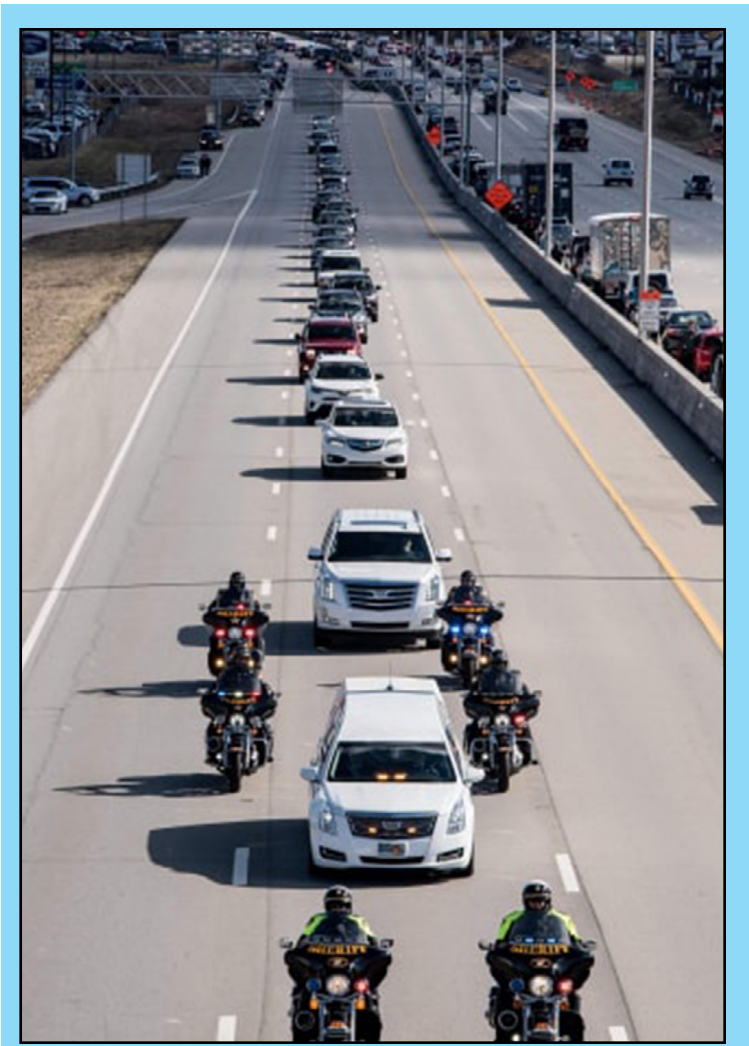
His final ride was on a caisson, pulled by a symbolic riderless horse. This was followed by a 21 gun salute, taps, and helicopter flyover.

Brewer received his final radio call. When no response was received from the officer, he earned his end of watch call. This is a common and emotional farewell to fallen officers. He was laid to rest with full honors.

Clermont County Sheriff Robert Leahy spoke at Brewer's funeral. He said, "Bill gave his life as he lived it, a hero." Leahy was on the verge of tears while he spoke.

He, as well as fellow officers and members of the community were left devastated by the loss. "Bill laid down his life in a supreme act of devotion to those most precious to him," Leahy said.

Junior occupational therapy major Katy Orleck lives "10 minutes from where the standoff took place." She didn't know deputy Brewer personally but said that "the community is remembering Bill and his family through this terrible time."



William Brewer was born Jan. 14, 1977. He was a presenter of the Reds Rookie Success League. He grew up in Williamsburg, Ohio, and was a 1996 graduate of Williamsburg High School. He was a successful high school athlete and is showcased in the sports hall of fame there. He will be remembered as someone who was enthusiastic for his family, fellow officers and friends. Brewer was beloved by the community. His end of watch took place on Feb. 9.

The state of our dying planet

A full 90 minutes after his speech began, Donald Trump descended from the podium amid cheers from the right side of the chamber and tight-lipped grimaces from the left. He had just finished a State of the Union address that was a bizarre mix of a call for national unity and a campaign rally. He praised the accomplishments of women, declared the need for lower prescription costs and began the long process of enacting meaningful criminal justice reform. These bipartisan goals were matched with threats to strip women of their right to choose, relentlessly persecute undocumented immigrants and halt investigations into the criminal investigations of

his own administration.

But, among all of these talking points, in the hour and a half the president addressed the nation, he never once mentioned climate change. He never once mentioned the Americans losing their homes and their lives because of extreme weather. The president never once mentioned the state of our planet.

Our planet is dying. Ecosystems are being destroyed, the ozone layer is disappearing and it's taking a toll on all of us. We can no longer ignore how human consumption has created and now perpetuates that harm. It's no longer the pandas and the trees that are disappearing, it's our neighbors.

Just last week, a brutal polar vortex hit the Midwest when arctic winds collided with hot air over the warming oceans. This storm sent temperatures plunging colder than the surface of Mars and gave anyone exposed to the air for even five minutes frostbite. This extreme cold is not new, and if we don't act, it's not ending. 78 percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, and the extreme cold raises the cost of heating homes and contributes to financial ruin. As

those living in financial stress save their pennies, Americans experiencing homelessness are freezing to death. More than 20 individuals lost their lives during the polar vortex, including elderly individuals, who were especially vulnerable.

Our president's response? Mocking "global warming" on Twitter.

The polar vortex is only the most recent example of the human cost of climate change. Rising sea levels are threatening homes and businesses in coastal states. As the sea water seeps inland, it will contaminate our drinking water and interfere with irrigation systems.

Generations of people living in Florida and North Carolina are watching their way of life disappear. In Charleston, the number of days that flooding occurred on the coast increased from four to 50 in 2016, causing millions of dollars in damages to a city that survives on tourism. This problem is only going to get worse. By 2100, it is estimated that there will be \$14 trillion in damages to the coast, to say nothing about the death toll.

Our president's response? Say nothing.

The state of our planet is dying, and it's taking people down with it. As many as 100 people are killed annually by floods and hurricanes, an average that has been steadily increasing for the last 30 years. In 2018 alone, natural disasters cost our country \$155 billion in damages, another number that has been steadily increasing as weather patterns become more extreme and more dangerous. The people who are affected by these disasters are those who can't afford to leave. Preparing a home for a hurricane costs anywhere from \$200 to \$4,500, a horrifyingly high cost for Americans already struggling to put food on the table. Insurance policies for flood damages and other disasters are prohibitively expensive propositions, and rebuilding after tragedy is even more costly.

Our president's response? Directing funds from disaster relief to fund a border wall.

Human behavior perpetuates this cyclical damage to our planet, but human behavior remains the only way to fix it. Our nation fails to uphold policies that would slow down the speed of climate destruction. In fact, since taking office

in 2016, the Trump administration has actively rolled back climate protections that had been working to protect Americans across the country. The EPA estimates that from a single power plant 400 miles north of Houston, 180 people die prematurely each year from pollutants in the air spewed there by coal-burning plants. The number of these plants operating in Texas dramatically decreased under Obama-era regulations, saving both the planet and lives. Additional regulations could have prevented 120 premature deaths per year and 1,300 cases of bronchitis.

Our president's response? Rolling back these regulations.

Climate change affects those in poverty at disproportionately high rates and is harming American citizens. We can't ignore the effects of a warming planet any longer. There is only one word to describe Donald Trump's choice to omit any mention of this threat: irresponsible. Our president can continue to claim that the United States has the "hottest economy" in the world, but how will it last if our planet is heating up even faster?



Sam Peters is a junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and economics double major. She is a guest writer from Aurora, Ill.

State of the Union: A call for unity in trying times

"Madame Speaker, the President of the United States." These words began a moment of American tradition: the State of the Union. This constitutional mandate requires the president to address Congress on the status and condition of the United States and has over time become an address to the American people about the country. Even more so, it is an opportunity for the president to set forth his agenda to a national audience and the assembled branches of federal government. In front of the nation, President Trump delivered an astounding State of the Union that set forth his agenda but, more importantly, called for national unity.

A call for unity is something that most presidents — most politicians typically — include in their historic

speeches, but now is a time when America needs that call the most. Our times are politically charged, the affairs of politics quickly seeping into other realms. Celebrities in Hollywood take moments meant for artistic recognition to express political hate. Members of the sports community use their moments on the field or their status to make a statement. Every time something like this happens, the media takes it as a moment to run headlines across the television screen.

Each time, America seems to become more divided. It is everyone's right to speak their mind, and so these moments are not what I want to speak about today. What I want to speak about is a call for unity.

The calls for unity by President Trump were questioned by many, some even before the

speech had started. I believe the president was genuine in his call, however, and the comments made by some regarding his request play right into the divisiveness that he has called for an end to.

America has been in the midst of this divisive trend for some time now, but the 2016 election brought to the front lines two political extremes that perpetually battle it out in the media and sometimes in the streets.

There are legitimate crises happening all over the world and in the United States. Even so, we are at a point where some of us can't even be friends with someone who supports President Trump. Some of us are unable to fathom eating food with a liberal. There are moments where we hate simply because we cannot agree. While there are

calls for unity from those who lead us and, I believe, personal calls for us to undivide ourselves, we need to ask serious questions about our climate, and we need serious answers. Will we ever be able to truly unify ourselves regardless of our circumstances?

I think we can, and not only can we, but we must as well. The fate of the republic, of these United States, is dependent upon we, *the people*, to be the people. We cannot be divided among ourselves simply because we disagree. We do not need to all believe the same way or agree with the same ideology. We do not even need to abandon our passion for our beliefs, our values or our causes. But we must abandon our hate toward one another.

I believe in our country, and I believe in our president. And

though you may disagree, I believe that you, too, want a unified America based on its principles of liberty, equality and justice. I am not pontificating myself as a guiding light. But I will always try my best to unify with my fellow Americans regardless of what they believe or what they say. I believe in our *United States*.



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Mission Statement
The Xavier Newswire is committed to reporting the news as well as explaining its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the Newswire hopes to foster dialogue on campus among students, faculty and staff.

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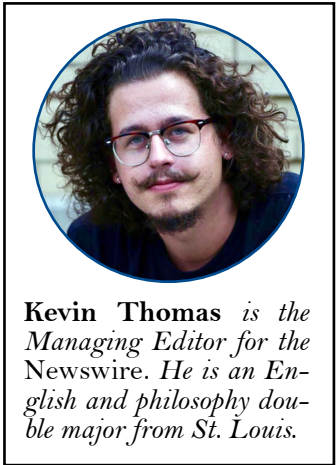
*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.

Let’s talk about the smoking ban

Two years ago, I wrote a series of articles following SGA’s attempt to make Xavier a smoke-free campus. The initiative, which was proposed by SGA senators at the time, failed, and it was determined that Xavier would remain a smoking campus.

However, I was still uneasy. One of my sources at the time told me, off the record, that it didn’t matter what the students decided in the forum regarding a smoke-free campus because the administration would be making campus tobacco-free a few years down the line anyway.

Thus, here we are: The ad-



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ministration is attempting to ban all tobacco and nicotine products on campus. And I’m pissed.

Look, I’ll admit, I’m a smoker. So of course I’d be upset about an attempt to make campus smoke-free out of self-interest. But that’s not what this is about.

I’m not pissed that they’re saying this is a supportive attempt to try to help people quit smoking. Everyone agrees that smoking isn’t good. It’s incredibly unhealthy, and something should be done so that fewer people smoke. I would gladly welcome help to quit smoking, like the kind the administration has proposed will be made readily available.

I’m pissed because the administration has a specific power because of the nature of this particular type of institution: Every five years, nearly the entire student body will be different. This means that, with pretty much any administrative idea they want that meets resistance from students, all an administration will have to do is wait a few years for the protests to die down. After all, there will be

a completely different student body.

One way to address this problem is to have a legacy of student activism, a core group of students who stand together, fight together against administrative power and pass on the lessons that they’ve learned on how to stand up against an administration that has far more time and resources than the students do, a group that knows how to pass down the lessons of utilizing power that they’ve learned.

However, Xavier doesn’t have this. Yet. Our administration is too “good” to us. We’ve been privileged to have an administration that claims to stand against racism and create committees with student seats on them, an administration that creates five-year plans to address issues of injustice on campus.

This sure worked well when the administration made itself out to be a tragic character that had no other choice but to give Chartwells an essential monopoly on food options on campus (tragedy, here, in the Niebuhrian sense).

So now, to return to the

smoking issue. Members of the administration claim this to be an issue of wellness. They say that it’s time to join the hundreds, if not thousands, of other institutions that are entirely smoke- and nicotine-free campuses.

I agree that it’s an issue of well-being. Smoking is a problem. I wish that I didn’t smoke — it’s an expensive addiction that is damaging to my health. However, prohibition, the banning of all sale and consumption, is a strategy that has never worked well. I mean, alcohol prohibition didn’t work. The war on drugs has done nothing but damage communities through the mechanisms of mass incarceration. It’s definitely hyperbolic to compare our college campus banning the consumption of tobacco and nicotine on its property to these issues, but my point is that prohibiting smoking won’t stop it.

The solution is through building a campus community that supports people and helps them quit. Currently, members of the administration are looking at community

cessation models to help faculty, staff and students quit smoking when the ban inevitably passes.

So, my question is this: Why the ban at all?

If you care about well-being and acknowledge the difficulties of ending addiction, if you’re looking toward community cessation models, then why not simply start there?

There seems to be no point in banning these products at Xavier if the administration itself acknowledges that prohibition won’t work, unless the ultimate goal is to get “no smoking anywhere” into a rulebook.

So, I’d like to ask the administration to do something different than the hundreds, if not thousands, of other campuses across the nation that have banned smoking and consumption of nicotine-related products on campus: create a community that helps people quit without resorting to the simplicity of a ban. Look past the idea that the university has no choice but to either ban it or not.

Of course, they could also just wait a few more years.

Leaving Syria is the worst move we could make

On Dec. 19, President Trump announced his plans to withdraw American troops from Syria, citing military victory over the Islamic State (ISIS). While the defeat of ISIS is something to cherish, withdrawing our troops now would be a catastrophic mistake.

The United States is not popular in the Middle East. Between our reckless dismantlement and abandonment of the Iraqi people, proxy wars in Yemen and air strikes in Syria, the United States’ list of Middle Eastern allies is short and rapidly dwindling. Our list of friends in the region is running low, and we can’t afford to abandon them by withdrawing from Syria. It is time for the United States to support, not abandon, the Kurdish people of Iraq and Syria.

The Kurdish people, known as Kurds, are an ethnic group based in northeastern Iraq, northern Syria and southern Turkey. The Kurds have been advocating for their inde-

pendence as a state for nearly a century and have lived semi-autonomously in Iraq since the Second Gulf War. Iraqi Kurdistan in particular has one of the fastest growing economies in the Middle East, built upon a plethora of oil reserves and free trade policies that mirror our own. According to a 2009 census, Iraqi Kurdistan has the lowest poverty rates in Iraq and has seen an exorbitant increase in wealth throughout the last decade. Kurdistan’s economic stability is also reflected in its western-oriented culture. The Kurds have built their identity upon the values of self-determination, religious moderation and free expression — mirroring our own ideological commitments.

From its long history of American military support to its inherently Westernized culture, Kurdistan is an incredibly compatible and stable ally and could extend America’s sphere of influence in the Middle East.

Militarily, the Kurds have

put up the strongest fight against ISIS in recent years and have, as of late, overrun their last remaining stronghold. While the Kurds have all but wiped out the threat of ISIS, they are still persecuted by the Turkish government. So far, Turkey has refrained from attacking Kurdish forces in Syria because of their direct cooperation with American troops. By withdrawing our troops from Syria at President Trump’s command, the U.S. government would be abandoning the Kurdish soldiers who helped us defeat ISIS.

Unfortunately, it wouldn’t be the first time we have betrayed the Kurds. On multiple occasions, the United States has allied itself with the Kurds before shifting allegiances, and the Kurds were the ones who suffered. The best example of this was in our encouragement and subsequent abandonment of Kurdish rebels in Iraq under Saddam Hussein’s regime. Once American forces withdrew from the region after our involvement in

the First Gulf War, Hussein felt emboldened by the lack of an American threat and committed one of the world’s deadliest chemical weapons attacks on the Kurdish city of Halabja, killing nearly 5,000 civilians.

Despite our mistreatment of the Kurds, they courageously fought alongside us in the First Gulf War and sheltered our troops during the 2003 invasion of Iraq when Turkey, our NATO ally, refused to do so. Furthermore, as Syria split into faction warfare, it was the Kurds who steadily held onto their northern territory and drove ISIS out of their lands.

The most adamant opponent of an independent Kurdish state has been Turkey, who has committed to fighting Kurdish secession for decades. I would argue that, by recognizing a Kurdish state in Iraq and Syria, the Turks would actually weaken the argument for Kurdish secession within Turkey. A recognized Kurdish state would offer a

definable Kurdish homeland separate from Turkish territory. Regardless of Turkey’s opinion, this conversation will never happen if we abandon the Kurds now.

Supporting the development of an independent Kurdish state would take years, but it begins by standing with the Kurds now, as they have stood with us time and time again. The Kurdish economy is growing, and world powers are taking notice. These are not disposable allies, and if the United States doesn’t realize that, someone else will.



Max Winter is a senior public relations and sport management double major. He is a guest writer from Washington, D.C.

Copy Editors Needed

The Newswire is hiring copy editors to work from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights. Familiarity with AP style is preferred but not required. The available positions are compensated. Please reach out to newswire@xavier.edu for more information.

Marshall drops 22 points in loss to Blue Demons

BY LUKE FELICIANO
Sports Editor

Xavier was in a position to buck a five-game losing streak at home last Saturday against DePaul. However, a late surge by the Blue Demons resulted in a sixth straight loss for the Musketeers.

The defeat marked the second time that Xavier fell to DePaul since both teams began to compete in the Big East Conference.

DePaul capitalized on a multitude of Xavier second-half turnovers, which resulted in the Musketeers' ceding the lead.

"I thought we did have a lot of carryover from practice as far as defense went. (It was) probably our best defensive effort we've had in Big East play so far," head coach Travis Steele said. "It's hard to win any games at this level when you turn the ball over ... They scored 15 points off our turnovers."

A slow developing start to the game resulted in only four points scored by the first media timeout. With 11:48 remaining in the first half, the game was tied at five points apiece.

The Musketeers shot just 38 percent from the floor and 23 percent from beyond the arc in the first half.

However, Xavier upped its shooting percentage to 40 percent for the game.

Sophomore forward Naji Marshall was a consistent source of offense in the first



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Sophomore forward Naji Marshall scored a team-high 22 points against DePaul last Saturday while also grabbing four boards and distributing four assists. He went 2 of 3 from distance and 6 of 7 on free throws.

half, registering 16 points, three rebounds and three assists. He finished with a team-high 22 points and also collected four rebounds and had as many assists.

Marshall, whose game typically resides in driving hard to the basket, shot the ball well from long range, going 2 of 3 on three-point shots throughout the game. Even

so, he excelled at attacking the rim and making tough shots.

Xavier went on a mini 6-0 run and closed out the half converting its final three shots to claim a slight one-point edge at the break.

Early in the second half, sophomore guard Paul Scruggs made a couple of tough shots from the outside. He contributed in nearly ev-

ery aspect of the game with 13 points and five rebounds, along with three assists.

"We had a couple turnovers in a row, and that's what got them going," Scruggs said about DePaul's comeback. "Our guys played hard, and that's all you can ever ask for."

Xavier had a very positive showing defensively against the Blue Demons' top scorer,

Max Strus, who averages 17 points per game.

The Musketeers limited his output to 15 points and stifled him to shoot a mere 6 of 20 from the field and 1 of 9 from three-point range.

"I thought we made him earn his points," Steele said. "He's a really good player. They run probably 90 percent of their set plays for him specifically ... I thought Quentin, Naji (and) Paul did a good job for the most part making it tough on him."

A two-minute scoring drought allowed DePaul to tie the score at 57 with 3:28 left in the game.

Six turnovers in the last six minutes of the game gave way to a 16-2 run for the Blue Demons, which put them up by eight points with 1:22 remaining. This effectively sealed the Musketeers' fate.

Xavier is at an important juncture in the season. Amidst a losing skid, the Musketeers are nearing their final stretch games before the end of the regular season in a conference where one win can vault them forward multiple spots in the standings.

Xavier isn't out of the fight yet by any means. Each team in the Big East is guaranteed a spot in the conference tournament.

Regardless of how the rest of the season plays out, the Musketeers will still have an opportunity to compete for the Big East title next month at Madison Square Garden.

Kostarellis sets program record in 3000-meter run

BY TIM KRAMER
Staff Writer

A record-breaking performance in the 3000-meter run by sophomore Anna Kostarellis highlighted men's and women's track and field competition last weekend.

The teams traveled to Nashville, Tenn., to compete at the Music City Challenge, hosted by Vanderbilt University at the Multipurpose Facility. This was the team's final regular season meet of the indoor season before the Big East Championships.

Kostarellis' outstanding performance broke the program record by about seven seconds with a time of 9:33.43.

"Anna's training has been going really well lately, so we knew a breakthrough was coming soon, and tonight was her night," head coach Ryan Orner told goxavier.com. "Not only did she drop 20 seconds off her already fast personal best, but she took fifth place in a stacked field. The race went out fast through the 1600 with Anna nearly in last place with a 5:02 split. Anna remained composed and moved her way up through the pack during the second half of the race."



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Sophomore runner Anna Kostarellis set a Xavier track and field program record in the 3000-meter run with a time of 9:33.43. She broke the record previously held by Sarah Mazzei, who set the record during a 2016 run.

Orner added that he took notice of Kostarellis' training, which has now benefitted not only her own cause, but the team's as well.

The record was previously

owned by Sarah Mazzei, who ran a 9:40.03 in the same race during a meet in 2016. Kostarellis joined elite company with her time. Mazzei was a Big East All-Conference

cross country runner while competing for Xavier.

Kostarellis was not the only Musketeer to thrive in the team's penultimate event of the winter season. Five

Musketeers set personal records, and 10 runners had season-best performances last weekend. Both sides faced challenging opponents this weekend in competing against SEC schools.

The Xavier coaches were happy with their athletes and team's performances this weekend and believe it will prepare them for the Big East Championships.

"The group that went down really stepped up to the challenge of SEC competition, and we walked out of the building a group of proud coaches," Orner said.

Xavier set out to challenge itself before the Big East Championships in order to get athletes in the best physical shape heading into conference weekend.

Overall, the Musketeers accomplished the task at hand, which according to Orner was "running fast times before the Big East Championships."

The teams have a respite from competition and will turn their attention to the final meet of the winter season. The Musketeers will close out the indoor season with a meet at SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio, from Feb. 22-23.

A tribute to Jackie Robinson's 100th birthday

BY JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

On Jan. 31 Jackie Robinson would have turned 100 years old.

This centennial anniversary is a great opportunity to reflect on the legacy of civil rights in the United States and the life and career of the man who broke the color barrier in professional sports.

Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey, the general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers at the time, knew that they were going to face resistance.

I'm sure that they had many conversations about the ramifications of their decisions and came to the conclusion that Robinson needed to be as perfect and saint-like as possible.

Any small incident could have been the end of his career and any social progress that the two were trying to make.

Professional athletes have a lot to worry about just in the confines of the sport that they play. Contract negotiations, public persona and performing your part well for the team are overwhelming in and of themselves. Add to that the public perception of an entire group of people and you can understand how Jackie Rob-

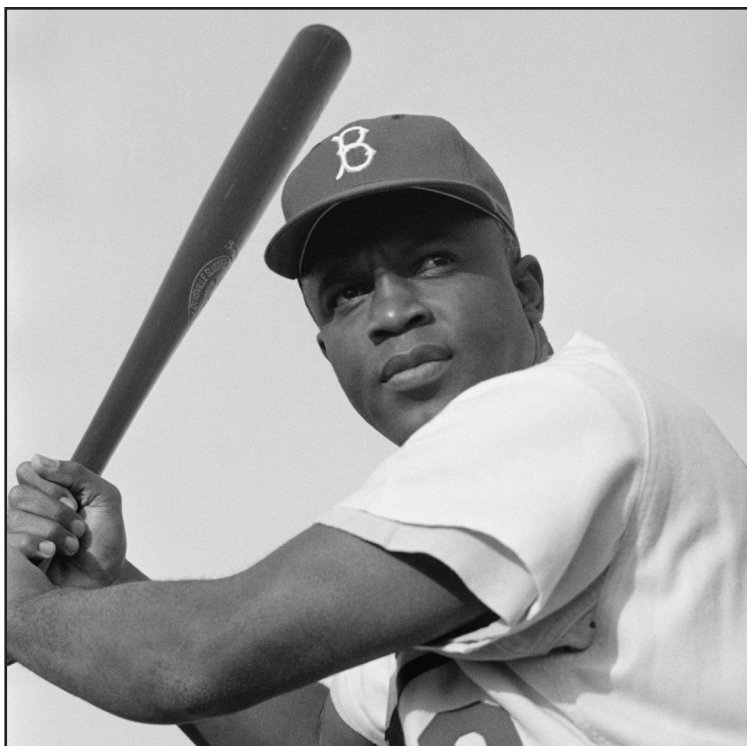


Photo courtesy of Wiki Commons

Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball and in sports. He continues to be an influential figure in American history.

inson was always hyper-aware of what was at stake.

I view Robinson's story as a look into a certain type of social privilege. Many People of Color didn't have any room for people to see them angry.

One of my favorite scenes in any movie I have seen is in the biopic *42*, when Jackie Robinson and Rickey meet after a public outburst of anger by Robinson.

Rickey says to him, "Don't

ever let people see you mad."

According to accounts, Robinson only expressed anger around people he knew he could trust after that moment.

Personally, I have had a similar experience. When I was in middle school playing hockey, I used to get extremely and outwardly enraged whenever I let a goal in.

I ended up writing the number 42 on the end of my hockey stick to remind me

that I needed to remain calm so the other team couldn't see that they were getting to me.

The sad truth is that some people have a privilege to anger where others do not.

For many People of Color, women and those of other marginalized identities, being assertive and letting people know when they violate your boundaries — or even your dignity as a person — is always going to be perceived as irrational and simple-minded.

In contrast, a White person, especially a White male, is usually going to be perceived as assertive and willing to "say it how it is."

A lot of people don't let others see them angry and push down how they really feel so they can advance in society and the workplace.

The fact that a select group of people in this country don't have the privilege of self-expression and others do is simply wrong, but that is just how it is.

Even today, public athletes receive backlash when they express their personal experiences and views of the racial climate.

Just recently, Colin Kaepernick was blacklisted from the NFL when executives at the front offices deemed him to

be a "liability" for exercising his First Amendment right. LeBron James was instructed to "shut up and dribble" by a White Fox News anchor when he tried to say something about the racial inequality in our society.

I also see a mentality in many sports fans that says "be grateful" to professional athletes, implying that they are making a lot of money being entertainers despite being viewed as uneducated and inarticulate.

The struggle of tolerating all the racial abuse and balancing his public image is the most definitive and touching part of Robinson's legacy in my eyes.

He had every imaginable reason to give up his career in the MLB and lash out at the horrible acts of racism that he had to endure from coaches, players, fans and even his own teammates.

Despite all that, he endured. He put on a face of poise and stoicism because he understood that his cause was bigger than just himself.

I hope that Robinson can remind us of all the progress we have made while also letting us know how much work we still have ahead of us in the future.

Opinion: Reds' moves put them in the playoff hunt

BY DONNIE MENKE
Staff Writer

It's been a long few years for fans of the Cincinnati Reds, as the team has the worst record in baseball since the 2014 season.

They haven't won more than 70 games since that 2014 season, winning 64 games in 2015, 68 in both 2016 and 2017 and 67 last season. They are also the only team to average fewer than 70 wins since 2014.

After this offseason, however, there is little reason to believe 2019 will hold the same fate.

The Reds have been very aggressive this winter, more so than any other team in baseball.

The biggest trade of their offseason came on Dec. 21, when they offloaded one of the worst contracts in Major League Baseball in starting pitcher Homer Bailey, along with two prospects, for three potential impact players.

In return for Homer Bailey, Jeter Downs and Josiah Gray, the Reds got back outfielders Yasiel Puig and Matt Kemp, starting pitcher Alex Wood and catcher Kyle Farmer. Puig, Kemp and Wood are all projected to be upgrades.

Puig brings a new energy to the team — he's been active in the community and shown nothing but excitement about being a part of the Reds. His abilities as a player don't hurt



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Former Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig was acquired by the Reds in a trade in December. "Puig Mania" and company have many Reds fans hopeful for the upcoming season, wanting to galvanize the team.

either. He brings additional power and strong defense in the outfield.

Kemp was an All-Star last season, but he'll be 35 by the end of the season and it's reasonable to expect he will take a step back this year.

However, Kemp will still be a player who can make an impact, whether he starts or comes off the bench, and will be able to act as a mentor for the younger players with his veteran presence.

Wood brings a steady presence to a rotation that has

been among the worst in baseball history throughout the last two seasons.

Wood's stats from last season are better than the Reds' rotation as a whole in nearly every category, so he will bolster the pitching staff.

Before the Dodgers trade, the Reds also made a smaller move in trading pitcher Tanner Rainey to the Nationals for Tanner Roark.

Roark improved last season from his 2017 campaign. Despite a lower win-loss record, he improved in nearly every

other area. He is also a rotation upgrade who can bring a veteran presence. Roark has pitched in majors for six seasons.

The biggest wildcard of the Reds' trade acquisitions is former New York Yankee and Oakland Athletic starting pitcher Sonny Gray.

The Reds acquired him in their final deal (so far) of the offseason in exchange for Shed Long and a draft pick.

They also received minor league relief pitcher Reiver Sanmartin in the trade and

agreed to a contract extension with Gray to make the trade final.

On the surface, Gray had a bad season last year. He had a 4.90 ERA and pitched just 130.1 innings. However, a closer look reveals Gray really only struggled at home and was very good on the road.

His ERA at home, in 59.1 innings, was 6.98, while his ERA on the road, in 71.0 innings, was only 3.17.

This is not to say Gray will suddenly be an ace-level pitcher but rather that people shouldn't expect him to be as bad as he was last season.

The Reds also have Nick Senzel, the sixth-ranked prospect in all of baseball, according to MLB Pipeline. He will probably play center field and is a likely contender for NL Rookie of the Year.

The Reds were just 11-29 in one-run games last season. If that record were to be flipped to 29-11, they would have been only two games out of a postseason spot.

Though the NL Central is projected to be the closest division since 1994, according to fangraphs.com, the Reds were right to be aggressive this offseason.

The team was not as far away from contending as the record made it seem, and by making these moves and getting this talent, this team will likely be in the playoff hunt for most of the season.

Netflix original film fails to excite



By Aidan Callahan
Staff Writer

Netflix originals are always hit or miss — usually a miss. These are the exact words I used to open my *Polar* review last issue.

However, the purpose of that article was to show how Netflix’s “throw spaghetti at the wall until it sticks” strategy can sometimes produce some really good-sticking spaghetti.

But do not be fooled — Netflix has plenty of spaghetti that doesn’t stick to the wall but instead comes crashing down hard. *Velvet Buzzsaw* is that kind of spaghetti.

I was very excited for this movie. The director, Dan Gilroy, worked with actor Jake Gyllenhaal on a 2014 movie called *Nightcrawler*. It was a fantastic movie, so I don’t understand what went wrong for *Velvet Buzzsaw*.

In the former, Gyllenhaal plays a very unlikeable character who is incredibly interesting. In the latter, he plays a similarly unlikeable character who is not interesting at all. This is true for almost every character in the movie.

Velvet Buzzsaw is about

the art world, so all the main characters are artists who have the same overused “obnoxious artist” personality.

Seriously, they all might as well be the same person. They’re self-absorbed and rude to everyone they encounter, and none of them have a single endearing quality.

There are two exceptions to this: a secretary whose single characteristic is that she is a secretary. Then there’s the main character. There is no reason to hate her, but they also give you no reason to like her. She reminds me of a video game character who doesn’t talk and just gets guided from plot point to plot point. I don’t understand why anyone was interested in making a movie about this cast of characters.

In fact, it’s hard to understand what the point of this movie is in the first place. It cannot decide what it wants to be. Most of the time it feels like a slow drama, yet towards the end it tries really hard to be a horror movie.

However, the genre it succeeded in the most is comedy. There were genuinely some funny moments. But all these

parts feel incomplete: it’s not dramatic enough to be a drama, there’s not enough horror for it to be a horror and the comedy just feels like it’s there to be there. It didn’t seem like anyone knew what they were doing with this movie, especially the director.

Velvet Buzzsaw shows that all movies need to have some sort of guiding force. It could be a studio saying, “Hey Dan, try to stick to one genre, please,” or it could be an already-successful graphic novel in the case of *Polar*.

Movies are a big commitment for those involved in making it and the audience members who will need to sit through it for two hours, so you should not let the director run free like an artist on a smaller, more personal project like a painting.

For a project as big as a movie, there needs to be someone thinking about the audience.

Total score:

A graphic showing five stars in a row. The first star on the left is yellow and filled, while the other four stars are white with black outlines and are empty.

Photo courtesy of Netflix.com
Netflix original film *Velvet Buzzsaw* is a supernatural horror film that brings satire and suspense to the art world after the death of an artist.

Review: Listermann Brewing delights pubgoers

By Curt Berry
Guest Writer

Norwood’s Listermann Brewing, located just across Dana Avenue, is often noticed for its colorful exterior and humorous signage. A visit inside reveals why this spot is among my favorite local pubs. Listermann has an excellent choice of beers on tap. They are all homemade beers and are greatly varied. They offer lagers, IPA’s, fruity beers and sweet drinks.

My personal favorite, the Rocky Road Float, is essentially a chocolate milkshake IPA, and that is all I need to hear. A couple of other sweet drinks are the 562 Lateral, the Float and the Sundae, and they are all worth trying.

The bar is great, but for those who are not 21 or just want a bite to eat, head over to the restaurant side of Listermann. For starters, the deep-fried mac-and-cheese balls and the pretzels with beer cheese are classic, delicious options.

However, if you are going to Listermann, throwing your money into the Belgian-Style French Fries is something you will not regret. These are the best fries I have ever had. Bryce Reinhold, a lover of these Listermann fries, said that “these fries alone are worth making the trip there.”

Beware the hot wings, unless you are not afraid of a challenge. Thursday through Saturday, Listermann gives



Photo courtesy of Cincinnati.com
Listermann Brewing offers well-crafted beer, sweet drinks and good food to the Norwood area. Its convenient location and delicious appetizers make drinking beer an even more enjoyable experience. Listermann Brewing makes a perfect spot to crack open a cold one with the boys anytime.

you a chance to eat six of their hottest wings in five minutes, and after you are done, you have to wait an entire minute before you can get any napkins or drinks.

If you win this challenge, you get a picture on the wall, your own t-shirt and the wings are free.

I also must speak about a to-die-for item on the menu, called the “Dank Grilled Cheese.” It melts four cheeses

— American, Swiss, cheddar and provolone — with bacon and tomato. Yes, it does taste as good as it sounds.

Before you leave out that double door of Listermann Brewing, make sure you take a sample of their delicious brews with you. Their prices might be high, but it is worth bringing some of these creative, delicious alcoholic beverages along with you. You can take home a bottle of

mead offered in several different flavors for a price of \$20.

Listermann Brewing does not just serve food and drink. The variety of events they hold, such as stand-up comedy, improv and even a free-to-join nightly running club, makes it an overall great experience.

The prices are a bit high, but I would very highly recommend. This spot is a fun place with delicious food and

drinks, and you can do a hot wing challenge.

The convenience of how close it is to campus, plus the money you save by not “Ubering” all night over Cincinnati, makes this an affordable place to be on the weekends.

Total score:

A graphic showing five stars in a row, all of which are yellow and filled.

21 Savage detained at U.S. border

BY GILLEN FAENZA
Staff Writer

Rapper 21 Savage, real name She’yaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, was taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Sun. Feb. 3.

ICE claimed that he was born in the United Kingdom and overstayed a short-term visa in the U.S. He was granted a bond for release on Tuesday but may still face deportation.

21 Savage entered the U.S. in 2005 when he was just 12, but he stayed after his visa expired in July of 2006. His lawyers said he has been in the U.S. longer than that, since he was 7 years old.

He had previously been convicted of felony drug charges in 2014, which occurred in his alleged home state of Georgia. His deportation did not surface until almost five years later. Some are questioning why his immigration status was not addressed sooner.

He has produced three albums in the last few years. *Issa Album* was released in 2017, and *i am > i was* came out in 2018. He also collaborated with Metro Boomin and Offset for the 2017 album *Without Warning*.

In the past, he has also come out with mixtapes and EPs and been featured on nu-



Photo courtesy of Rollingstone.com

Atlanta-based rapper and Grammy nominee 21 Savage was banned from entering the U.S. and was held in ICE custody until he was granted an immigration bond on Tuesday. Many rappers, including Jay Z and Post Malone, showed 21 Savage support at the Grammy Awards ceremony.

merous singles.

In 2018, he won “Top Rap Song” at the Billboard Music Awards and “Song of the Year” at the MTV Video Music Awards for the song “Better Now” with Post Malone. He was nominated for “Record of the Year” and “Best Rap Performance” at the 2019 Grammy Awards.

Because of his arrest, he had to sit out of the Gram-

my’s this year. Jay-Z decided to hire a lawyer for 21 Savage after saying his arrest is “an absolute travesty.”

ICE has been under some serious scrutiny recently. As part of his campaign, President Donald Trump called for a wall to be created at the U.S.-Mexico border. The recent government shutdown was in part the result of Trump not receiving bipar-

tisan support for the wall’s funding.

It was the longest government shutdown in history, lasting 35 days. 21 Savage’s arrest is only part of a larger context of ICE arrests and deportations. Though 21 Savage was technically born in Britain, his rap career is based in Atlanta. Having been in the U.S. for more than 10 years, 21 Savage may qualify for a

type of humanitarian defense called “Cancellation of Removal.” However, it won’t be valid if he is convicted of any drug-related crimes.

21 Savage was granted an immigration bond temporarily, while his legal team clarifies and proves his legal standing and bond eligibility status. He is currently awaiting the opportunity to plead his case before a federal judge.

Here’s what NOT to do on this Valentine’s Day



Photo courtesy of Pngtree.com

BY KEVIN THOMAS
Managing Editor

Every time I go home to St. Louis, my family and friends tease me about the fact that I always have a new significant other. It’s become a joke among them how they never see the same person twice. Naturally, this means that I don’t have a single piece of advice to give about what to do in romantic situations. However, it does mean that I am incredibly qualified to tell you what NOT to do, which feels rather pertinent with Valentine’s Day coming on Thursday. Aside from some of the rather obvious things of what not to do, namely, assume consent or keep trying after they have already said no, here is a list of a few things that you most definitely should not do this Valentine’s Day.

1. Don’t assume that you know what they want or that they know what you want

Seriously, this one will wind up terribly. Relationships are all about communication, and apparently

telling other people what you want is an important aspect of communication. Otherwise, you might end up with a salmon-colored Ralph Lauren quarter zip when most of your wardrobe is dark and from a thrift store.

2. Stay away from live (and dead) animals

This one is less for Valentine’s Day and more in general. Do not give a significant other a living animal. It leads to a weird custody battle and potentially shared custody after a break-up that make it impossible to end things. Going to the zoo is alright though. Also, dead animals are a definite no, even as placeholder gag gifts. Learned that one the hard way. Long story.

3. Don’t think you need to do something expensive and fancy

It’s OK to be broke and not do anything. Your partner should understand financial strains at this point. After all, Xavier is expensive and the tuition just went up five percent

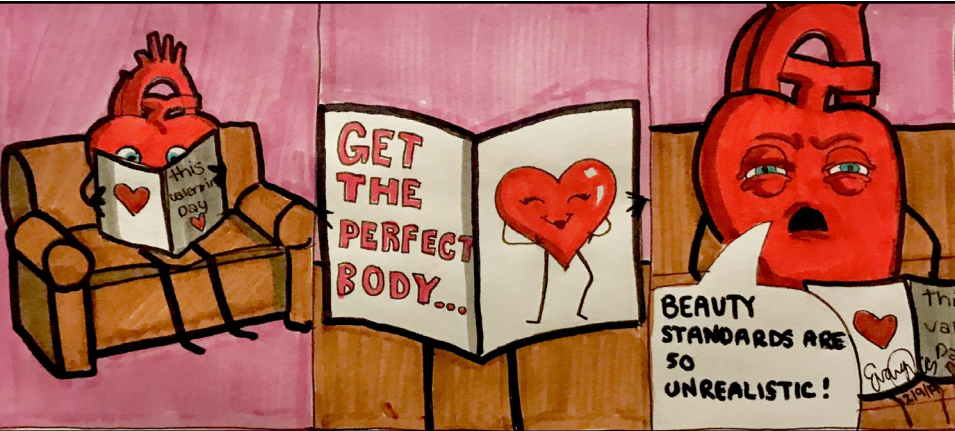
for next year, so maybe it’s time to save. Besides, it’s the thought that counts.

4. Don’t believe that you need to have a romantic partner to enjoy Valentine’s Day

It’s a Hallmark holiday that was created to make money off romance. However, that doesn’t mean that we cannot individually put meaning in something that may not inherently have it. It can be a day set aside for showing the people you love how you love them and why you do. You can show love to anyone, like your friends, total strangers, family members, professors or whoever. Just make sure that they are consenting to you sharing your love with them and don’t be too weird or creepy about it.



Photo courtesy of Clipground.com



Comic by Evana Dias



Aries: If you notice yourself struggling to maintain your temper and you happen to have your old graded papers and such from last semester, consider setting them on fire.



Taurus: Be patient with yourself. Don't beat yourself up if you have trouble rolling out of bed or crawling to class. The energy will come, even when it seems like it won't.



Gemini: Who lives behind that door again? Oh, it's you, but you've holed yourself up for so long that neighbors are questioning who you are. The sun-light is painful, but necessary.



Cancer: Whether you live for the tea that is drama or hate it, be wary of it. Why flip an average-sized table alone immediately when you can consult with others and flip a huge table with them?



Leo: You may want to get ahead this week on things, but that doesn't mean you should tell someone to break a leg — and secretly mean it literally.



Virgo: Try to make this a self-love week. If someone's asking you to do something you don't want to do, don't give into the peer pressure and don't be afraid to say no.



Libra: Every year around 9 million people get gifts for their pets on Valentine's Day. If there's a pet you feel like you don't deserve, even if it isn't yours, get them a fancy toy.



Scorpio: Don't neglect your health. To take care of physical, mental and social health all at once, run on a treadmill while watching "Vines that butter my eggroll" with a friend.



Sagittarius: Watch out for little financial surprises, like all of your dining dollars being gone and the person at the register giving you a look of pity.



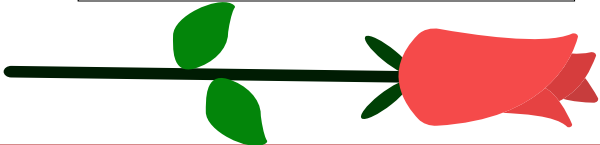
Capricorn: Give yourself time to do what makes you happy. Sleeping for 12 hours straight? Sure. Eating a whole family bag of Cheeto puffs? Yup. Binge watching a whole show? You bet.



Aquarius: To throw some spice into your week, take time to scroll through DIY Pinterest crafts and try your hand at some of them. You'll only surprise yourself...either in a good or bad way.



Pisces: Just because the avocado toast in Gallagher is kind of affordable doesn't mean you should be giving into your millennial instincts and getting it all the time.



Look for the answer key in next week's (Feb. 20) edition!

Across:

- 2. This sign may need to control their millennial instincts
- 5. The thing that prevents this cookie from being the best in the caf
- 8. The month a writer first visited the caf their first year at Xavier

Down:

- 1. The element with which a zodiac sign is recommended to interact
- 3. Something you will find in every cookie
- 4. An average cookie, maybe a little better.
- 6. It is recommended that one sign purchase a Valentine's Day gift for a
- 7. Leo may literally want you to break this

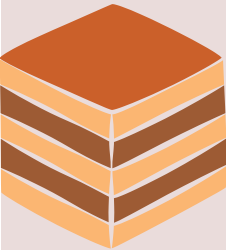
Top 5 caf cookies



BY AIDAN CALLAHAN
Staff Writer

Ah, the caf. As just a lowly freshman, I was enamored by the caf when I first entered it last September. I mean, food at (almost) all hours of the day? And not only that, good food?! I was ready to eat there for breakfast, lunch and dinner. However, soon my rose-tinted glasses were ripped off my face. My computer was acting funky, so I took it to the tech help desk in the Conaton Learning Center (CLC). As the guy was fixing my computer, an apparently long-lost friend of his came up and began conversing. A tad rude, but I suppose I am also rude for listening in. More importantly, what I heard was a long-winded smackdown of the caf. They wanted to meet for lunch, but they would rather die before stepping foot in the caf, which apparently has gone far downhill in their years at Xavier. I walked away from that desk with a fixed computer and a broken heart. Gone were my days of naivete. Now when I go to the caf I see it for what it really is: wildly inconsistent.

But why focus on the negatives? Sure, the caf may not be perfect, but I'll be darned if there aren't places in the caf that can keep a consistent quality. The deli is always a good choice — Steve can make a sandwich like no other. But there's one place in particular that shines above all: the bakery. Even the most adamant critic has to admit there are some delicious desserts back there. But none shine brighter than the constantly refilling cookie cabinet. Those bad boys are good. If you see a kid filling his green box to the brim with cookies, come say hello because it's probably me. I don't know if Grandma Cookie actually makes the cookies, but if she does, then she's gotta have some sort of secret recipe. These things are a God-send. To celebrate these beacons of hope in the dark cavern that is the caf, let's count down the top five caf cookies!



5. Toffee Cookies - These guys are as good as an average cookie, maybe even a little better. And we're only at number five.

4. Chocolate Chip Cookies - A classic recipe that's not easy to get wrong. However, they're not the best. Don't get me wrong, the ingredients are perfect: I love the batter and the chocolate they use. What puts them so low on the list? One word: Toomuchchocolate. I bet you chocoholics out there are saying, "There's no such thing!" But when it comes to classic chocolate chip cookies, you've got to keep the ratio just right. Too much chocolate can overshadow the batter and make you tired of the chocolate faster. Once again, these are still great cookies, they just need to work on the ratio.



3. Sugar Cookies - Now these are cookies where you don't have to worry about a ratio. Well, I'm sure there are important ratios that go into the intricacies of the batter, but that's neither here nor there. All you've got to know is these are some good tasting sugar cookies that are sweet, but not *too* sweet.

2. M&M Cookies - A cookie that gets the ratio right. I don't understand why they can't do this with the normal chocolate chips. They put in just enough M&Ms so you definitely know they're there, but they're not assaulting your mouth with an overload of chocolate. There's also the added layer of candy coating around the chocolate, which throws a whole new delicious element in the mix and works as a barrier between the batter and the chocolate. These are everything you want out of a cookie, and they're always my go-to, except when they have...

1. Glazed Sugar Cookies - Words cannot describe the pure ecstasy I feel when I bite into this delicious combination of the regular sugar cookie with a glaze unlike any I've tasted before. I've had my fair share of glazed cookies, and they all make me feel sick after two or three. I don't know what they put in these things, but they're somehow sweet enough that they taste like cookies from heaven but not too sweet to the point that after a few you're like, "OK, I've had enough of these." Every bite is as good as the last, if not better. The only feeling a bunch of these cookies will leave you with after eating them is the feeling of wanting more. So Grandma Cookie, or anyone in the bakery, if you're reading this, I beg of you: Make these cookies available more often. The cookie cabinet is a beacon of hope, but the light that comes from the variety of colors that glaze these cookies makes that beacon shine just a little brighter.

